

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 211669

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 4 LINE 1)

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SUBJECT: DEFECTION OF ROMANIAN DIPLOMAT IN OSLO

REF: BUCHAREST 4372

REGRET THERE IS NO OFFICIAL-SOURCE INFORMATION WE CAN MAKE
AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME ON THE RECENTLY REPORTED DEFECTION
OF A ROMANIAN THIRD SECRETARY IN OSLO. FOLLOWING IS THE
TEXT OF THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE NEWS REPORT ON THE CASE WE
HAVE SEEN:

TEXT: OSLO, AUGUST 30, REUTERS (BY HENRY HENRIKSEN):
SPIES: A SPY TURNED DEFECTOR AND REVEALED THE EXISTENCE
OF A ROMANIAN INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE RING OPERATING IN
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PAGE 02 STATE 211669

NORTHERN EUROPE, THE NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY CONFIRMED
TODAY.

A MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID POLICE WERE STILL INVESTIGATING

THE NETWORK, WHICH ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED ABOUT 40 ROMANIAN DIPLOMATS IN BRITAIN, WEST GERMANY, AND SCANDINAVIA.

NORWAY WOULD CONSIDER MAKING A PROTEST TO ROMANIA AGAINST THE ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES, HE SAID.

ALTHOUGH HE DECLINED TO GIVE DETAILS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEFECTOR WAS VIRGIL TIPANUT, 37, THIRD SECRETARY OF THE ROMANIAN EMBASSY HERE, WHO DEFECTED WITH HIS WIFE AND TWO DAUGHTERS LAST JUNE 16.

PRESE REPORTS HERE SAID TIPANUT WAS NOW IN BRITAIN, HELPING INTELLIGENCE AGENTS UNCOVER THE SPY NETWORK, AND THAT HE HAD ALSO WORKED FOR THE AMERICAN CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA). ROMANIAN DIPLOMATS HERE SAID THEY KNEW NOTHING OF THE DEFECTION OR ANY ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES.

TIPANUT'S INFORMATION LED TO THE ARREST OF A ROMANIAN MATHEMATICS STUDENT, TITUS PETRILA, 32, WHO WAS AT NORWAY'S TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY AND HAS BEEN HELD IN CUSTODY SINCE JUNE 22.

PRESS REPORTS SAID THAT YESTERDAY HE ADMITTED UNDERTAKING INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE AND PREPARING FOR MILITARY ESPIONAGE; CHARGES WHICH CAN BRING UP TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON.

TWO ROMANIAN OFFICIALS LEFT NORWAY FOLLOWING TIPANUT'S DISCLOSURES, REPORTS SAID. THEY WERE FIRST SECRETARY EMANUEL ZEIDES, SAID BY THE ROMANIAN EMBASSY TO BE ON VACATION, AND TRADE ATTACHE PETREA TARNICERU, DESCRIBED BY THE EMBASSY AS HAVING ENDED HIS SERVICE IN NORWAY.

THE REPORTS ALSO SAID ROMANIA'S MILITARY ATTACHE IN STOCKHOLM, COSTICA BARAC, WOULD ALSO LEAVE SCANDINAVIA SOON.

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PAGE 03 STATE 211669

THE PAPERS SAID TIPANUT HAD WORKED FOR ROMANIA'S CIVILIAN INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION D.I.E., WHOSE MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO GATHER TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW THROUGH AGENTS IN OSLO, STOCKHOLM, COPENHAGEN, BONN AND LONDON.

THEY SAID THE NETWORK IN NORWAY HAD CONCENTRATED ON SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT DEVELOPED FOR USE IN THE NORTH SEA GAS AND OIL FIELDS. IN SWEDEN THEY HUNTED PETRO-CHEMICAL DATA, IN DENMARK DETAILS OF A COMPLICATED NATO RADAR GUIDANCE SYSTEM.

THEIR ACTIVITIES IN DENMARK WERE ALSO FOCUSED ON INSTRUMENTS TO BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH DENMARK'S RECENT

PURCHASE OF THE AMERICAN F-16 JETFIGHTER; THE OSLO PAPER
SAID.

TIPANUT WAS SAID TO HAVE TOLD NORWEGIAN POLICE HE DEFECTED
BECAUSE OF CONDITIONS IN HIS OWN COUNTRY, CORRUPTION AND
THE PERSONALITY CULT AROUND PRESIDENT AND PARTY LEADER
NICOLAE CEAUSESCU. END TEXT.
KISSINGER

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